

# CUMMINGS ECONOMICS

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## STATISTICAL SNIPPET ...

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### RESIDENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH FIGURES FOR 2003/04

At 2.4%, Cairns City (Gordonvale to Ellis Beach) growth rate was about the same as the previous year 2002/03.

The growth rate of 2.4%, although healthy, is still below Cairns' average long-term rate of about 3%. We had expected the 2003/04 rate to be up on the 2002/03 figure and to have been approaching the long-term average again.

A disappointing aspect of the figures was that growth of population in the region outside of Cairns was down to 0.5%. The rest of the Far North Queensland statistical Division has traditionally recorded strong growth for a country area. Douglas Shire, a traditional strong growth performer, showed a growth of only 1%.

Nevertheless, the situation outside of the major regional cities in other northern regions was worse with population falling in the areas around Townsville and Mt Isa and the Far North Queensland Statistical Division continued to lead Queensland's regional growth outside of the Brisbane, Moreton, Wide Bay area, with a total increase of 3355, ahead of the Townsville/Northern region 3298, Darling Downs 2627, Fitzroy 2562, and Mackay region 1970. The Northern Territory increase was 1369.

The table below gives figures for regional areas across northern Australia, and indicates the Far North Qld Statistical Division recorded the largest increase. Cairns' growth rate of 2.4% was about the same as Townsville, but in numbers, Cairns at a growth of 2765 was less than Townsville at 3298. Darwin's growth stood at 1439 (1.3%). Mackay's population has now risen to equal that of Rockhampton.

It should be noted that the figures released are for estimated residential population and do not count visitor population. It should also be noted that these are intercensal estimates and the real test will come when the census is taken next year in 2006.

**Table - Estimated Residential Population Growth 2003-04  
Northern Australia**

Regional Stat Division	Popn	Gwth No.	Gwth %	City	Popn	Gwth No.	Gwth %
Far North Qld	234,849	3355	1.4%	Cairns	120,296	2,765	2.4%
Northern	200,909	3298	1.7%	Townsville	144,930	3,432	2.4%
Northern Territory	199,913	1369	0.7%	Darwin	109,498	1,439	1.3%
Fitzroy	187,916	2562	1.4%	Rockhampton	68,473	558	0.8%
Mackay	143,699	1970	1.4%	Mackay	68,381	1,501	2.2%
North West	39,311	(-171)	(0.4%)	Mt Isa	20,663	15	0.1%
Central West	35,001	672	2.0%				
Pilbara	33,900	(-115)	(0.3%)				
Kimberley	12,239	(-139)	(1.1%)				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,063,259</b>	<b>12804</b>	<b>1.2%</b>				

Source : Cummings Economics from Australian Bureau of Statistics Data.

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